



City of Santa Barbara
Police Department

Memorandum

DATE: September 22, 2011

TO: Fire and Police Commission

FROM: Holly Perea, Police Technician

SUBJECT: Dance Permit Request – La Rumba Bar & Grill

DISCUSSION:

On August 3, 2011 Jose Martinez, owner of “La Rumba Bar and Grill” located at 3435 State Street, submitted an application for a dance permit for this premise. The applicant received all necessary approvals from Community Development for the dance permit, and submitted a floor plan of the premise indicating where the dance floor will be located. The applicant anticipates that dancing will take place daily between 8 pm and 1:30 am Thursday through Sunday.

The owner plans to have a minimum of 3 security guards on duty during hours of dancing Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and a minimum of 4 guards on Saturday nights. Guards will be dressed in black pants and blue branded shirts with the “La Rumba” logo on the front and the word “security” on the back of the shirts.

On September 7, 2011, Santa Barbara Police Department staff conducted a site visit. The following information was learned during this visit:

- The premise has 8 interior speakers and no exterior speakers.
- The premise has 7 internal security cameras and 1 exterior camera.
- There are three points of entry into business. Patrons are only permitted to enter and exit through the front door. Each point of entry will be staffed during hours of dancing.

La Rumba originally obtained a dance permit in 2004, and held it through December 2010. Due to an oversight, owners failed to renew the permit in the allotted time frame. Due to the lapse, the premise is required to submit a new dance permit application.

A review of the crime statistics for the premise from December 2008 through December 2010, revealed 7 incidents involving people drinking and/or fighting in the parking lot adjacent to the business, as well as 8 reports of physical altercations inside the premise involving patrons fighting other patrons and/or security.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that a dance permit be issued to La Rumba with the following conditions:

- Entertainment shall not be audible beyond fifty (50) feet from the premise in any direction.
- Rear door must be kept closed but unlocked during patron dancing.
- No patrons shall enter or exit through the rear patio door.
- No live entertainment, dancing, or amplification system on any patio or outdoor area.
- Permit holder must patrol the surrounding area, including the parking lot, at least once per half hour from 8:00 pm until closing nightly to prevent loitering and decrease the opportunity for suspicious/illegal activity in surrounding areas. Permit holder must keep a nightly record of these area checks.
- Permit holder is responsible for maintaining an orderly line of patrons awaiting entry into premise.
- A minimum of 3 security guards required whenever occupancy is 120 patrons or fewer.
- A minimum of 5 security guards required whenever occupancy exceeds 120 patrons.
- Licensee is responsible for keeping an accurate patron count at all times.
- A minimum of 5 security guards required after 9 pm when patrons under age 21 years of age are on premise, regardless of total occupancy.
- When patrons under age 21 years are on premise, a distinct barrier must be used to separate patrons under age 21 from those ages 21 and over.
- Dancing prohibited after midnight nightly when patrons under age 21 years are on premise.